## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly comprising an implantable endoprosthesis capable of being diametrically expanded from a smaller diameter to a larger diameter; and a generally tubular, delicate constraining sheath provided coaxially around the endoprosthesis at the smaller diameter of the endoprosthesis, said constraining sheath being provided with means for disruption initiated by application of a distending force to the constraining sheath, wherein said assembly is contained within a packaging sheath which is not required to be implantable.
- 2. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 21 hours.
- 3. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 24 hours.
  - 4. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 48 hours.
- 5. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 5 days.
- 6. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 10 days.

- 7. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 20 days.
- 8. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 30 days.
- 9. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 45 days.
- 10. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 60 days.
- 11. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding endoprosthesis.
- 12. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 21 hours.
- 13. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 24 hours.

- 14. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 48 hours.
- 15. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 5 days.
- 16. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 10 days.
- 17. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 20 days.
- 18. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 30 days.
- 19. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 45 days.
- 20. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 11 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 60 days.

- 21. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 1 wherein the delicate constraining sheath comprises porous expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.
- 22. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 21 hours.
- 23. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 24 hours.
- 24. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 48 hours.
- 25. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 5 days.
- 26. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 10 days.
- 27. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 20 days.

- 28. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 30 days.
- 29. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 45 days.
- 30. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 60 days.
- 31. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 21 wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding endoprosthesis.
- 32. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 21 hours.
- 33. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 24 hours.
- 34. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 48 hours.

- 35. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 5 days.
- 36. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 10 days.
- 37. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 20 days.
- 38. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 30 days.
- 39. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 45 days.
- 40. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 31 wherein the delicate constraining sheath, in the absence of the packaging sheath, either at least partially disrupts or allows an increase in a maximum diameter of the endoprosthesis assembly of at least 0.15mm, when exposed to a temperature of at least 60°C for a time of at least 60 days.

41. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly comprising an implantable endoprosthesis capable of being diametrically expanded from a smaller diameter to a larger diameter; and a generally tubular, delicate constraining sheath provided coaxially around the endoprosthesis at the smaller diameter of the endoprosthesis, said constraining sheath being provided with means for disruption initiated by application of a distending force to the constraining sheath, wherein said assembly is stored at a temperature of less than about 5°C for at least 30 days.

42. (Original) An endoprosthesis assembly according to claim 41 wherein the assembly is stored at a temperature of less than about 5°C for at least 60 days.

Claims 43-48 (Canceled)